

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12 MCE-00
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O R 022340Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, MASS, SW, IN, US, PK

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON THE SECRETARY'S MEETING AUGUST 2
WITH SWEDISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURENSTAM LINDER

1. FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE HAS BEEN PREPARED:

BEGIN TEXT. QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SECRETARY'S
MEETING WITH THE SWEDISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE THIS MORNING?

ANSWER: THE SECRETARY OF STATE MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH
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SWEDISH MINISTER OF COMMERCE BURENSTAM LINDER BEGINNING AT
11:00 AM THIS MORNING (AUGUST 2) AT THE REQUEST OF THE
SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS THE US DECISION NOT TO APPROVE
THE SALE OF THE SWEDISH VIGGEN AIRCRAFT TO INDIA.

-- THE SECRETARY RECONFIRMED OUR DECISION NOT TO APPROVE
THIS SALE BECAUSE AN APPROVAL WOULD HAVE BEEN INCONSISTENT

WITH OUR ARMS TRANSFER POLICY.

-- THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT WE WOULD NOT OURSELVES APPROVE THE TRANSFER OR SALE OF AN EQUIVALENT AMERICAN AIRCRAFT TO INDIA OR PAKISTAN AND THEREFORE WE COULD NOT APPROVE THE SALE OF THE US ENGINE AND OTHER US COMPONENTS USED IN THE VIGGEN AIRCRAFT.

-- THE SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT IN VIEW OF OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH SWEDEN AND OUR SENSITIVITY TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SALE TO SWEDISH INTERESTS, IT WAS WITH GREAT REGRET THAT WE FOUND IT NECESSARY NOT TO APPROVE THEIR REQUEST.

QUESTION: WHY WAS US APPROVAL NECESSARY?

ANSWER: THE VIGGEN IS EQUIPPED WITH A US ENGINE AND OTHER COMPONENTS UNDER ARRANGEMENTS WHEREBY US AUTHORIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR SALES TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

QUESTION: WHEN WAS THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT INFORMED OF OUR DECISION ORIGINALLY?

ANSWER: JULY 6.

QUESTION: BY WHOM?
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ANSWER: UNDER SECRETARY BENSON TO THE SWEDISH CHARGE.

QUESTION: WHAT OTHER MATTERS WERE DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY?

ANSWER: THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE SALE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY ITEMS WAS ALSO DISCUSSED.

PARTICIPANTS: SWEDEN: MINISTER OF COMMERCE STAFFAN BURENSTAM LINDER, AMBASSADOR WILHELM WACHTMEISTER, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLITICAL DIRECTOR KNUT THYBERG, EMBASSY COUNSELOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ULF DINKELSPIEL.
UNITED STATES: THE SECRETARY, UNDER SECRETARY COOPER, UNDER SECRETARY BENSON, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS RICHARD VINE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU OF POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS RICHARD ERICSON, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NORTHERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ROBERT FUNSETH. END TEXT.

2. THIS GUIDANCE MAY BE USED AT YOUR DISCRETION. VANCE

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